

reach halting and crippled for lack of your loving and liberal support? See ye to it. It awaits the proof of you that your thanksgiving is deeper than the lips, but that it bespeaks a sincerity and a worthiness, itself the guarantee of future blessings, expanding in that large and liberal way so characteristic of our Father in heaven, as our souls expand to receive them.

Remember God's poor. "Whosoever ye will, ye may do them good." And "he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord, and he will repay him." The summer and the harvest are past, and their empty storehouses compare pitiously with your full barns, and the bleak winds of winter beat against their little ones not so warmly clothed as yours. Let us do unto them as we would wish that God should do unto us.

Why Should It Be Difficult to Believe?

Why should it be accounted a marvelous thing that man lives forever, that his spirit is immortal? Is that any more wonderful than that we are living now? Is life in another world any more difficult to believe than life in this? How came we here? What hand endowed us with sentient being, and godlike faculties? How came this world, with all its marvels, its wonderfully intelligent laws, its indescribable beauties, its divine forces? Shall we be able to ask any more questions of the world to come, or of the eternal life? The mysteries here are as numerous and as great as the mysteries there. To the rational mind it is no more difficult to believe in the future world and the future life than it is to believe in this. It is just as reasonable to deny the existence of the world in which we now live as to deny the existence of the spiritual world to which we are all hastening. More than this, we see everywhere in this world the law of progress and growth. Scientists have articulated this law, and called it evolution. Now if there is certainly a law and a fact of progress, there is an equally certain law and fact of its goal. He who earnestly pursues a journey is evidently going somewhere, and going, he ultimately arrives. He is indeed blind who can not recognize the journey of history and human experience, or its end,—the world to come.

Educational Notes

Booker T. Washington: In the education of my people, we should remember that the education of the head alone increases one's wants, and that the hand should be educated so as to increase his ability to supply these increased wants along lines at which he can find employment. The negro who has received education of head, hand, and heart is not the criminal negro. The criminal negro, in nine cases out of ten, is without a trade, and lacking in moral and religious training.

Free Methodist: Education can never take the place of the Holy Spirit as a preparation for the Christian ministry, or for any department of Christian work; but true education will so develop a man or woman as to give the Holy Spirit fivefold or tenfold more material to work on and operate thru in empowering him or her for a given calling than that same person would have if uneducated. We must not forget that the Holy Spirit, in working thru human agents, is lim-

ited more or less by the natural capacity of the individuals.

Charles H. Parkhurst: I would send a boy to a third-rate college provided with a corps of instructors so pronouncedly Christian that teaching should itself be a gentle, but continuous testimony to religious assurance, before I would send him to a first-rate college, where he would be liable to have God omitted from his class-room, and to have the matter of not only the soul, but even of the stars, the rocks, birds, and flowers handled not simply with impious jests, but with religious uncertainty and evasion.

Paradoxes of the Christian Life

In his essay on the "Different Characters of the Christian," Lord Bacon, says, "A Christian is one that believes things his reason can not comprehend, and hopes for things which neither he nor any man alive ever saw; he believes three to be one, and one to be three; a father not to be older than his son, and a son to be equal with his father; he believes himself to be precious in God's sight, and yet loathes himself in his own; he dares not justify himself even in those things wherein he can find no fault with himself, and yet believes that God accepts him in those services wherein he is able to find many faults; he is so ashamed as that he dares not open his mouth before God, and yet comes with boldness to God, and asks him anything he needs; he hath within him both flesh and spirit, and yet he is not a double minded man; he is often led captive by the law of sin, yet he never gets dominion over him; he can not sin, yet he can do nothing without sin; he is so humble as to acknowledge himself to deserve nothing but evil; and yet he believes that God means him all good," etc.

Three Intense Convictions

When Joseph Cook was asked by theological students what were the essential qualifications for success in winning souls to Christ, he promptly and emphatically replied, "(1) An intense conviction that men are lost; (2) an intense conviction that they may be saved." To this a writer in the Religious Telescope adds another, namely, "an intense conviction that *you can and ought to save them*." By which we understand him to mean that we can be instrumental in saving them. These convictions should burn deep down into the soul of every believer. If every man and woman who hold membership in the Christian church would possess these qualifications the statistics of Christianity would soon take a turn.

Looking Upward

There is a story of a man who once found a gold coin on the street; and ever after, as he walked, he kept his eyes down to the ground watching for coins. He found a number of gold and silver pieces during his life, but he missed seeing the blue skies and the bright stars and the lovely landscapes which he would have seen had he learned to look up and not down. It is far better to train our eyes to look up, for upward is our goal, our home, the angels, God himself and all fair and radiant visions. Stephen when he was stoned to death did not look upon his persecutors, but instead looked up into heaven and *saw Jesus*. Is it not worth while to look up?